

Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.
IRONTON, MISSOURI.

DAINTY LITTLE FLOWER.

Little flower, little flower, blent with beauty
as thy dower.
Sending fragrant incense heavenward in
the quiet twilight hour,
Full of tender fragile grace, sweet of odor
and of face.
Take a morsel of Heaven's purity set in an
earthly place.

We poor mortals much may learn from the
tints which glow and burn.
In thy petals altar kindled, as within a
sacred urn,
For they speak of good and God, prints of
beauty on the sod.
Marking with Heaven's light and color
where His kindly footsteps trod.

How thy willing heart distills scent the
world with fragrance fills.
Though no eye but God's may see thee in
the fastness of thy hills;
Or in some neglected glen hidden from the
eyes of men,
But thy worship is but sweeter and com-
pacter offered then.

Modest, beautiful and shy, often born to
blush and die.
Or in crushed and bruised forgetfulness un-
freighted to lie.
Never murmur or complain though thy
fragrant breath grow faint,
But a mournful resignation as becomes an
humble sacrifice.

All the hills are cladmed, all the vales and
forests gemmed.
All the meadows with thy beauty well
adorned and widely hemmed.
Thou a thing of heavenly birth springing
upward from the earth.
Where thy gentle smile illumines its life and
mitigates its death.

Much may mortals learn from thee of what
is and is to be.
If the eyes are rightly focused by a spirit
trained to see,
May be made to know thy beauty and
thy fragrance,
That thy rim the crystal rivers which by
heavenly manna flows.

L. EDGAR JONES.

Greatest Game of Poker

Fathers, Sons and Grandsons Played It
in the Old Days of the West.

THE two men approached the card
table reluctantly, without that
eagerness shown by most persons about
to sit into a game of poker. These men
seemed burdened almost by the famous
"weight of centuries" that M. Millet
and Mr. Markham exploited with so
much sorrow and profit. After they
had sat down, they did not take up any
pack of cards, or even the cards on the
table, they began to bet, and, as if their
hearts were not in the game, they
suddenly had been a pleasure to both,
though a profit to only one.

"I raise you one cent," sighed John
Oxheart, the third of that name. And
his friend said, gloomily:
- "I see you are going to one better."
- "I raise you the limit," remarked
Oxheart, and George Flint the third
again replied:
- "I see your raise and raise you the
limit."

So the game went on until ten bets
had been made. In one corner of the
room sat an intelligent stenographer,
who in an old-fashioned notebook had
been taking down each bet as it was
made. He now closed the notebook,
laid it on the table, and retired.

Thirty-six years ago Col. John Ox-
heart, of the Ninety-seventh Virginia,
fell at the head of his men on that
bloody field of Gettysburg. Every student
of American history knows full well the
battle to which the writer refers. By
his side fell Lieut. Col. Flint. Their
deaths ended the first act of the comedy
that became almost a tragedy.

Eight years earlier, in 1856, these two
gallant Virginia men had met at a
friendly game of cut-throat poker. Their
names expressed their character-
istics. When not troubled or thwarted,
nothing could be more lovable than
these two gentlemen. But cross them
in anything, however little—the littlest
better—and they became wild
animals. Thousands and thousands of
slaves had these gentlemen struck
down, maimed, dying, even dead, when
angered by some trivial fault. Each
had only one son surviving out of
large families, the wives and other chil-
dren having in both families died of
decline superinduced by ill-treatment.
Yet these two gentlemen were loving
and respected neighbors.

So, to while away a dragging hour,
they sat down to play poker. The limit
it was five cents; simple minded chil-
dren of nature, they did not make the
limit too high. They played merely for
amusement; the money in the game af-
fected them not. So they began. After
an hour or so, when Maj. Oxheart had
about eight cents of Col. Flint's money
they had not then their military titles
it was the major's turn to bet.
He bet the limit; and the captain saw
him and raised the limit. Two or three
breathless minutes passed during
which each in turn saw his friend's
raise, and raised it. There must have
been \$1.50 on the board.

The major evidently took in ill part
the pertinacity of his friend. He said:
- "Yeh betteh drop out, George," he
said. "I've got yeh kilt."

"I won't drop out yet awhile, seh," an-
swered Flint. "I'll take mohn yeh
have to kill me."

"Don't yeh reply to me in tha' tone
of voice, seh!" cried the major, an-
grily. "I'm wohnin' yeh fo' yoh health,
seh!"

"I thank you, seh," answered Flint,
sarcastically; "I'm subtl'y over-
obligated to yeh, seh; but I can
stay yoh' hand out."

The major swore a great oath that
he could and would beat the captain's
hand, and both friends glared angrily
at each other across the table. They
stood like that for so long that the
hotel keeper, aroused at the unwonted
quiet, entered the room to see what was
the matter. He called help; the two
friends, who had become almost cata-
leptic, were taken apart, and trouble
was averted for the time. But Capt.
Flint bade the tavern keeper to seal
his hand of cards in a package, and
saw it done before he left the hotel.
Maj. Oxheart saw his hand sealed in a
similar package.

A few days later the two friends
met again, and after some talk re-
turned to the game. The hands, still
sealed up, were produced by the hotel
keeper, and the game began where it
had left off. Disagreement again broke
out the game, and again the boniface,
Col. Carter, took charge of the hands,
sealing them in second envelopes. So

for five years the game went on, never
finished, and at each separation Col.
Carter sealed the hands in additional
envelopes.

The war interrupted the friendly
contest, but not for long. Again and
again, as chance permitted, Col. Ox-
heart and Lieut. Col. Flint would get
the packages from Gen. Carter and
begin the never ending game. When
Gen. Carter fell at the head of his men
on that fatal day with which every
reader, etc., he had strength to turn
over the packages to his adjutant.

Taking them from the bosom of his
dress coat—he always wore full uni-
form in battle—he gave them to Maj.
Tolliver and bade him care for them
with his life's blood. Then the gal-
lant sportsman and soldier died.

When Oxheart and Flint were found
dead, Col. Tolliver (he had been pro-
moted) gave the packages to the rep-
resentative of the heirs. Col. Jones
Enraughty-Darby, who placed them in
a safe deposit vault. Under the cir-
cumstances, it was only natural that
the two heirs should be represented
by one person. Col. Enraughty-Darby
related the facts in the case to the
two young men and left it to their
conscience to lead them to do what
should be done. He knew well what
they would do. They went on with
the game. The same rules stood;
they began where their fathers had
left off. The progress made was lit-
tle and slow, for their altered cir-
cumstances kept them apart much of the
time.

In time they married and had sons;
to the eldest son each man told the
story of the great game; and it is
these men, grandsons of the original
players, that carried on the game.
Every week if they could get together
they met and made ten bets. Neither
faltering, though both knew that when
the end should come one of them
would be ruined for life. But still
they played on.

After the stenographer had gone
they sat down idly at the table and
called for refreshments. They were
still discussing the market, for they
were partners, one living in this city,
the other in Chicago, when a cry of
fire rang through the hotel. They es-
caped with their lives, not remember-
ing until too late that on the table
lay the record of the game which were
put down every bet that they, their fa-
thers and their grandfathers had made
on the long-dead hands. Their first
feeling was one of dismay. Then,
simultaneously, over each man's face
came a look of relief, of joy.

"Hurrah!" they shouted together,
and in the open street they fell on
their knees.

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PITH AND POINT.

There is always great admiration
for a man who understands his busi-
ness.—Athenian Globe.

"Isn't the armless wonder original?"
"In what?" "Why, when he gave me
his autograph, he wanted to know
if I didn't think he wrote a handsome
foot."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Underneath—"My wife talks, talks,
talks all the time." Henpeck—"Im-
possible. She must listen part of the
time, otherwise she wouldn't be so
popular with my wife."—Philadelphia
Press.

Hoax—"What's the matter, old
man? You look all cramped up."
Joax—"I've just been calling on one
of those artistic girls, and spent two
hours in a cozy corner."—Philadelphia
Record.

A Conqueror from the Suburbs—
"What a grand air Sidney Snitzer
has! Does he come from a specially
fine family?" "No. Don't you see?
He's taking a cook home with him."—
Detroit Free Press.

Officer to straggler—"What are
you standing behind that tree for?
The enemy is flying." Straggler—
"Hurrah! That's just the opportu-
nity I've been waiting for; I'm a first-
class wing shot."—Richmond Dis-
patch.

As they started out for a stroll he
could not help but admire her in her
dainty summer gown. "You look
sweet enough to eat," he whispered,
rapturously. "So glad you mentioned
it," she replied, promptly. "I'm just
joking for a plate of bisque and or-
ange ice."—Philadelphia Press.

OBJECTED TO THE ARM.

But the Maiden Thought It Was a
Little Thing to Get Angry
About.

The smooth-faced man with the
light hat, who was traveling home-
ward the other evening on the "Alley
"L," turned to the somewhat smaller
man sitting next to him, relates the
Chicago Tribune, and said:
"I wish you would take your arm
off the back of my seat. I don't
like it."

"So," responded the other.
But he let it stay.
The train reeled off two or three
blocks.

"Will you take that arm away?"
"O, yes."
But he did not take it away.

And the train reeled off two or
three more blocks.

I have asked you to take your arm
away. Are you going to do it?"
"Why, certainly."
Yet he let it remain.

Then that man with the smooth
face and light hat rose to his feet
and smote that other man grievously
on the left cheek, inasmuch that it
began to swell.

Whereupon that arm was removed
expeditiously.

There was some excitement in the
car, but the passenger who had done
the smiting was calm.

This may have been because the pas-
senger he had struck was somewhat
smaller.

But let that pass.

As he left the car at Forty-third
street he remarked:
"I don't think you will do that
again."

"If you'll give me your name and
address," answered he of the swelling
cheek, calling after him—he was fight-
ing mad now—"I'll show you! I dare
you to give me your name and ad-
dress!"

In the excitement of the occasion a
young man on the other side of the
aisle had thrown his protecting arm
around a blonde maiden and was still
zealously shielding her from all pos-
sible danger.

"What did he hit him for?" she
asked.

"Because," replied the young man,
"that fellow had his arm around him
and wouldn't remove it."

"Wasn't that a little thing," she
whispered, "for him to get angry
about?"

And the train proceeded to reel off
a few more blocks.

The Monkfish and the Dog.

RIDDLES THE HYPOCRITES.

Weakness of Republican Cause Ex-
posed by Bryan in His Ac-
ceptance Speech.

The magnificent appeal for the pe-
tuation of the time-honored prin-
ciples of the republic with which Mr.
Bryan acknowledges the official noti-
fication of his nomination is now be-
fore the American people. It possesses
the ring of a second declaration of in-
dependence. There is no sophisticated
play on words, no beating around the
bush, no cowardly attempt to escape
the issue which most vitally affects
the governmental structure. The lan-
guage is simple, straightforward and
strong, absolutely void of equivoca-
tion. It is the creation of a states-
man who has a policy to propose, and
which he feels absolutely sure. There
is no timidity—no shrinking.

No surer proof of the weakness of
the republican cause can be adduced
than the refusal of republican lead-
ers to discuss imperialism in detail.
Instead, their mere campaigners re-
sort to ridicule and meaningless har-
angues concerning honor and glory,
while those pretending to statesman-
ship have recourse to vague, oracular
assertions that leave their exact po-
sitions in doubt. The men chosen to
make and execute our laws are merely
public servants. The people, then,
have a right to know exactly what
they propose to do, and when and how
they propose to do it. We have no
prophets whose word is law. In strik-
ing contrast to the republican plan
Mr. Bryan meets every point in a man-
ly manner and discusses it with thor-
oughness. There is no wild declaration,
nothing dangerously radical, nothing
hot or purely partisan. His discus-
sion throughout is calm, temperate
and patriotic.

The most bigoted party antagonist
cannot place his finger upon a senti-
ment that is not distinctly American.
A high moral sentiment pervades the
whole. Liberty is the keynote.

Commending expansion he attacks
imperialism, demanding that the con-
stitution be interpreted as a charter of
territory under American dominion;
disputing the appalling assertion that
men with souls may be purchased
with inanimate earth and ruled as
"possessions," he riddles the hypocrit-
ical plea of duty, holding our supreme
duty to be the discharge of moral obli-
gations.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Forebode in His Demonstration.

Mr. Bryan made clear the distinc-
tion between imperialism and expan-
sion, between forcible annexation and
the acquisition of territory to be di-
vided into states. He showed by the
experience of colonizing nations of
Europe that tropical colonies were
not suitable for the habitation of the
white race. The status of the Filipino
under the republican policy was next
discussed. Was he to be a citizen or
a subject? Clearly not a citizen, for
subject is possible only in government
resting upon force. A republic, de-
riving its powers from the consent of
the governed, can have no subjects.

The evasive and insincere promise of
the republican platform to the Fili-
pinos of "the largest measure of self-
government consistent with their wel-
fare and our duties" was exposed.
Sixteen months had elapsed after the
treaty was ratified, but instead of any
self-government the president's will
was the only law. Mr. Bryan was
forceful in his demonstration of the
abstract right of people to govern
themselves, and of the injustice of a
stronger nation depriving the weaker
of a natural right. Jefferson and
Franklin were quoted to the effect
that a plundering nation making an
unjust war is as much a robber as the
individual highwayman.—Washington
Times.

Treasured by Genuine Americans.

Such force is there in Bryan's argu-
ments against our conquering and en-
slaving of foreign races, and with such
limpid clearness are they set forth,
that the best of the republicans' ability
will straightway rush to challenge
them, and will endeavor to be al-
lowed to break even an impotent
hance against them. It is a speech
that will be an inspiration in the cam-
paign—of comfort and assistance to
the democrats, of dread and discom-
fiture to the republicans. It will be
a whole armory in itself of the very
finest campaign material to the dem-
ocrats, and will be treasured by them
for months in centuries, but
vain, attempts to rebut its reasoning
and to lessen its effect upon the na-
tional mind. It is a speech which the
genuine American, who is proud of his
republicanism, of his constitution, of
his traditions and of his declaration
of independence, will read and will
treasure, with pardonable pride.

And a dog will be treasured by the
number and a dog will be treasured by
the United States deliver himself of a
speech placing Americanism on pure
and lofty a plane and making it an or-
nament for the nations to follow.—
N. O. Times Democrat.

Stevenson on Imperialism.

"There is no doubt that imperialism
is the one overshadowing issue. It is
the first time the people of this coun-
try have had such an issue before them.
At no other time have the people been
called upon to decide whether the un-
derlying principles of the republic
shall be adhered to by its government.
Being a new issue and involving the life
principle of our most cherished insti-
tutions, it is my belief that many voters
will rise above party lines and vote on
that issue alone. I am confident that
the democratic party will get most of
those votes, and feel well satisfied with
the outlook for success in November."

Mr. Bryan's speech accepting
the nomination of the Chicago City
convention will doubtless be a bitter
disappointment to the republican
managers. It is undoubtedly the
most sober, thoughtful utterance he
has ever made. It is entirely devoid
of hyperbole or specious pleading.
But aside from its merits as an intel-
lectual effort the point most potent
is the fact that he has devoted it
wholly to the issue of imperialism.
The republicans have tried to make the
one issue, imperialism, and spoken in clear
and unmistakable terms. Whether
the republicans choose or not, they can
no longer say he stands on a negative
platform. He announces just what he
proposes as a remedy for the ills he
complains of. He produces an affirma-
tive policy as against theirs.—Milwaukee
Journal.

MOST CONVINCING EFFORT.

Mr. Bryan's Argument Against Im-
perialism in His Speech at
Indianapolis.

Considered thus as an argument
against the imperial policy, as a warn-
ing against militarism and a plea for
liberty for all men, Mr. Bryan's speech
will rank as perhaps the most logical,
eloquent and convincing of all his pub-
lic efforts. His analysis of and answer
to the republican reasons for holding
the Philippines is most searching and
conclusive.

Mr. Bryan indorses "an easy, hon-
est, honorable solution of the Philip-
pine question" the plan set forth in
the democratic platform, and says:
"If elected I shall convene congress
in extraordinary session as soon as I
am inaugurated and recommend an
immediate declaration of the nation's
purpose, first, to establish a stable
form of government in the Philippine
islands, just as we are now establish-
ing a stable form of government in the
island of Cuba; second, to give in-
dependence to the Filipinos, just as
we have promised to give independ-
ence to the Cubans; third, to protect
the Filipinos from outside interfer-
ence while they work out their des-
tiny, just as we have protected the
republics of Central and South America,
and are, by the Monroe doctrine,
pledged to protect Cuba."

It cannot be charged that this
pledge is lacking in a definiteness,
and the parallel which it runs with
Cuba and with the traditional inter-
ference while they work out their des-
tiny, just as we have protected the
republics of Central and South America,
and are, by the Monroe doctrine,
pledged to protect Cuba."

Mr. Bryan has done well in confin-
ing his first formal speech to this
"burning issue" and in adopting a
moderate, reasonable and truly patri-
otic tone.—N. Y. World.

MUST MEET ON IMPERIALISM.

Opponents of Mr. Bryan Will Not Be
Able to Dodge the Para-
mount Issue.

The oft-demonstrated ability of Wil-
liam Jennings Bryan was never more
effectively exercised than in the prepa-
ration of the really great speech
which he delivered in formally accept-
ing the nomination for president by
the democratic party. That speech is
in itself a lofty, serious and patriotic
discussion of the greatest issue that
has confronted the American people
since 1860. The man who made that
speech is a developed Bryan, if not a
new Bryan, and his opponents will be
compelled to meet him and do battle
with him on different grounds than
those of 1896. On the currency ques-
tion he dwells not at all, except to
say that "the money of the nation
comes first, money, the handwork of
man, is of inferior importance," which
is the nearest he comes to a possible
hint at a subordination of the silver
issue. The opponents of Mr. Bryan
will be compelled, whether they like
it or not, to meet him on the issue of
imperialism. He presents it in such
form and with such mastery force
that they cannot evade it if they
would. In his first utterance of the
campaign Mr. Bryan gives assurance
that the contest is not to be one-sided
by any means, and that the supporters
of McKinley will have no reason to
possess overconfidence when the bat-
tle opens. They are dealing this time
with Mr. Bryan at his best.—Civic Ob-
server.

EDITORIAL OPINION.

Mr. Bryan has touched the but-
ton and set the pace. He talks for
the American people, and he talks for
country strong and great; he talks
for principles which have grown with
the civilization of the people. Democ-
racy affords the only hope of saving the
nation from imperialism.—Atlanta
Constitution.

There can be no misunderstanding
of Mr. Bryan's position upon the
"paramount issue" before the American
people, and no equivocation about it.
He is first, last and all the time for
the independence of the Filipinos. That
is his interpretation of the platform
adopted by the democratic national
convention at Kansas City. To the in-
dependence of the Filipinos, therefore,
the democratic party is doubly pledged.
It is not a question of a nominee for
president.—Baltimore Sun.

The speech of Mr. Bryan, as all
speeches are, was clear, able and
forceful. He discussed the issues un-
derstandingly. He did not make a
partisan appeal for votes, as do repub-
lican leaders; he appealed to the sense
of common justice, for the perpetuity
of republican principles as handed
down by the fathers; for the Ameri-
can commonwealth. Temperate in
language, calm in tone, logical in
argument, it will hold its place in
the literature of politics as one of the
greatest, as it is one of the sound-
est, deliverances since the days of de-
mocracy's great founder.—Thomas
Jefferson.—Dubuque Herald.

The speech shows mental
growth. It is not only better ex-
pressed than his speeches of four
years ago, but many of its expressions
are felicitous. Imperialism is the sub-
ject. At once it is lifted and main-
tained on a high plane. Every argu-
ment advanced in favor of subject
colonies is met fairly and frankly.
There is no attempt at evasion, no ef-
fort to obscure the issue. The argu-
ments in its favor are plainly stated
and literally riddled without waste of
words. The real American position
on this great question has never re-
ceived a clearer exposition, and it
should not need another, for this is
sufficiently exhaustive to be final.—
Denver Post.

No public utterance made by
Mr. Bryan since his nomination at
Chicago in 1896 shows such scrupulous
care and well-digested judgment as
this address of acceptance. If the
republicans flattered themselves with
the anticipation of a flamboyant and
florid effort they have been bitterly
disappointed. There are no protech-
isms in Mr. Bryan's discussion of im-
perialism at Military park the other
day—nothing resembling his famous
Chicago metaphor about a cross of
gold and a crown of thorns. The
manifest purpose to safeguard him-
self against ridicule on the charge of
extravagance and exaggeration has
been abundantly successful.—Kansas
City Star.

SIXTEEN TO ONE.

In the Ratio at Which Even Our Gold
Standard Administration Is
Coining Silver.

Under the coinage laws of the United
States 16 ounces of silver are the equiv-
alent of one ounce of gold. The law un-
der which our gold and silver is coined
was enacted in 1834. Prior to that time
the coinage laws of 1792 were in force
making the equivalent in coins of 15
ounces of silver and one ounce of gold
being equivalent to 13 1/2 ounces of silver
abroad while it was only equal to
15 ounces at home.

In 1834 a law was passed reducing
the weight of our gold coins. Under
the new law one ounce of gold was
the equivalent in coin of 15.